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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 770
By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mr. Samuel M. Fleming
of Franklin and Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened and deeply moved to learn of the death of Mr. Samuel Fleming; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fleming was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a longtime resident of Williamson County, Samuel Fleming was a highly respected member of the Franklin community who treated everyone with equal dignity and respect, regardless of the person's color, rank in life, or social position; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fleming served with acumen and alacrity for 57 years in the banking industry, earning the respect and admiration of his clients and competitors alike for the superior quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, widely known as one of the most astute financial and business leaders in Nashville and this nation, Samuel Fleming gave 42 years of his professional life to Third

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National Bank, now known as SunTrust Bank, serving with distinction as its president for 23 years until his retirement in 1973; and

WHEREAS, at the age when most children play the banker in friendly Monopoly games, Mr. Fleming was actively engaged in the real world of banking as a runner at Harpeth National Bank in Franklin, working after school and on weekends when he was only eight years old; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating from Vanderbilt University, Samuel Fleming began his estimable banking career at the New York Trust Company, before moving to Nashville to work at Third National Bank as the manager of the credit department; and

WHEREAS, his aggressive, yet gentlemanly, business demeanor assured his move up the ladder of success; during his illustrious career, he, at one time or another, served as a director, president, and chairman of the board of the Third National Bank; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fleming was a visionary leader for his bank and for Nashville; he was a man of impeccable character and integrity, and his word was his bond; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Fleming walked with kings, but he never lost the common touch, nor did he ever forgot those who helped him scale the ladder of success. He was a close friend and associate of several U.S. Presidents, including President Dwight D. Eisenhower, with whom he often played cards at Augusta National, and President Lyndon B. Johnson, in addition to countless other people of equal prominence; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, Mr. Fleming interrupted his promising banking career to answer his patriotic call to duty and bravely served his country as a member of the U.S. Naval Reserve from 1942-45; he was honorably discharged from the service with the rank of Lieutenant Commander; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fleming's banking expertise and peerless skills were recognized both locally and nationally; he rendered impeccable service as president of the American Bankers Association and was a director of the Nashville Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, the Reserve City Bankers Association, and Robert Morris Associates; he was a member of the

Federal Advisory Council, representing the Sixth Federal Reserve District, and was also a member of the Joint Commission on the Coinage; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Fleming was an innovative, progressive thinker who never shied away from a hard day's work or long hours; and

WHEREAS, a descendant of the early settlers of Tennessee, Samuel Fleming served with acumen as a member of numerous boards and organizations, both on the local and national levels; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fleming truly loved young people; he was always willing to extend a friendly hand to help them maximize their potential and realize their highest dreams, goals and aspirations; and

WHEREAS, a man dedicated to the highest ideals of quality education, Mr. Fleming was devoted to Vanderbilt University; he had graciously served as president of the Vanderbilt Alumni Association and as president, chairman, and member of the Vanderbilt University Board of Trust. His exemplary service to the university included leadership in three major fundraising efforts, the construction of a new hospital, and the mergers of the George Peabody College for Teachers and the Blair School of Music into the University; and

WHEREAS, he was also a trustee of the Battle Ground Academy in Franklin and served on the boards of Meharry Medical College, the National Fund for American Education, Harpeth Hall School and Ensworth School; and

WHEREAS, Vanderbilt University demonstrated its appreciation for Mr. Fleming and his selfless service to the school by naming "Fleming Yard" on its campus in his honor. Battle Ground Academy has named its administration building in his honor; and

WHEREAS, an exemplary community leader whose benevolent nature knew no bounds, Samuel Fleming was active in a number of civic and charitable organizations ranging from the Boy Scouts to the United Givers Fund (United Way). He selflessly served as a member or director of the Hermitage Association, the Tennessee Historical Society, the State of Tennessee Civil War Centennial Commission, the Tennessee Historical Commission, Youth Incorporated,

Junior Achievement, the Coordinating Council on Medical Education, and the Nashville Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his countless accomplishments and philanthropic efforts, Samuel Fleming received many coveted awards, including the Association of Governing Boards Distinguished Service Award for Trusteeship of Privately Endowed Independent Educational Institutions, the Award of Merit by the Nashville Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Cross of Military Service from the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and the Silver Hope Chest Award; and

WHEREAS, he also had many illustrious titles bestowed upon him, including Citizen of the Year by the Nashville Sales and Marketing Executives, Civilian Aide for Tennessee, Secretary of the Army, and Honorary Eminent Supreme Archon of S.A.E. Fraternity; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Fleming always gave generously to many worthy causes, never seeking recognition for his benevolence, generosity, or achievements; and

WHEREAS, a golfing enthusiast who could consistently shoot his age into his nineties, Mr. Fleming was a distinguished member of many golf and country clubs, including the Belle Meade Country Club, the Golf Club of Tennessee, the Cumberland Club, the City Club, and the Richland Country Club, all in Nashville; the Honors Course in Chattanooga; the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia; the Gulf Stream Golf Club in Gulf Stream, Florida; the Seminole Golf Club, the Everglades Club, and the Bath and Tennis Club, all of Palm Beach, Florida; the Delray Beach Yacht Club and the Delray Beach Bath and Tennis Club in Delray Beach, Florida; the University and Links Clubs and the U.S. Seniors Golf Association of New York City, and the Garden of the Gods Club in Colorado Springs, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Fleming was an exceptional man whose priorities in life went deeper than the everyday concerns of business and banking; he was a devout Presbyterian and former elder and deacon of the First Presbyterian Church; and

WHEREAS, through his life of Christian service, Mr. Fleming faithfully observed the counsel offered in Micah 6:8 "...to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God"; and

WHEREAS, he exuded a genuine warmth and interest in people, and possessed an outgoing, congenial personality that was sensitive to other people's needs and feelings, even before they were expressed; he looked for the best in everyone and never met a person he did not like; and

WHEREAS, deeply devoted to his family, Mr. Fleming always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Samuel Fleming is survived by his wife, Valerie Ellis Fleming, his daughter Joanne Fleming Hayes; and three grandchildren, Fleming Wilt, Jodi Wilt Banks, and T.J. Wilt; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fleming was preceded in death by his first wife, Josephine Cliffe Fleming, and his sons, Daniel and Samuel Fleming; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Samuel Fleming leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, truly a prince among men, he was loved by people from all walks of life whose lives he touched and enriched daily with his kindness, thoughtfulness and compassion; and

WHEREAS, it is rare that a person of Samuel Fleming's stature graces us with his presence, and thus, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Mr. Samuel M. Fleming, reflecting fondly upon

his singular career in banking, his stalwart commitment to public service, and his impeccable character as a professional and human being.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest sympathy and offer our condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Fleming.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.